

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A network terminal apparatus connected to other network terminal apparatuses via a network, the network terminal apparatus comprising:

a storing unit that stores setting  
10 information of the network terminal apparatus;

an acquiring unit that transmits an acquisition request for acquiring setting information to one of the other network terminal apparatuses, receives the setting information from the one of the  
15 other network terminal apparatuses;

a setting unit that sets the received setting information to the network terminal apparatus and stores the received setting information in the storing unit; and

20 a transmitting unit that, in response to receipt of an acquisition request for the setting information stored in the storing unit from another one of the other network terminal apparatuses, retrieves the setting information from the storing  
25 unit, and transmits the retrieved setting information

to the other one of the other network terminal  
apparatuses.

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2. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 1,

wherein

10 the acquiring unit transmits an acquisition  
request for acquiring a designated item of the  
setting information, and receives the designated item  
of the setting information.

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3. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 1,

20 wherein

the network terminal apparatus acquires the  
setting information from a setting information  
management server provided in the network, that  
manages the setting information of the network  
25 terminal apparatuses.

4. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 3,  
wherein

5           the network terminal apparatus acquires the  
setting information from the setting information  
management server at predetermined intervals.

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5. The network terminal apparatus, further  
comprising:

15           a transforming unit that, if format of the  
received setting information does not match format of  
the network terminal apparatus, transforms the  
received setting information into format-adjusted  
setting information;

wherein

20           the setting unit sets the format-adjusted  
setting information to the network terminal apparatus  
and stores the format-adjusted setting information in  
the storing unit.

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6. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 5,

wherein

the transforming unit transforms the  
5 received setting information based on stylesheet that  
defines an attribute of each element of the setting  
information.

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7. A network terminal apparatus,  
comprising:

means for transmitting a request for  
15 acquiring setting information to another network  
terminal apparatus connected via a network;

means for receiving the setting information  
from the other requested network terminal apparatus;

means for setting the received setting  
20 information to the network terminal apparatus;

means for storing setting information that  
store the received setting information;

means for receiving a request for acquiring  
setting information from another network terminal  
25 apparatus connected via the network; and

means for transmitting the setting  
information to the other requesting network terminal  
apparatus.

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8. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 7,

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wherein

the means for transmitting a request for  
acquiring setting information transmits a request for  
acquiring only items designated by a user.

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9. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 7,

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wherein

a setting information management server is  
provided in the network; and

the setting information is acquired from  
the setting information management server.

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10. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 9,

wherein

the network terminal apparatus acquires the  
5 setting information from the setting information  
management server at predetermined intervals.

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11. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

means for transforming, if format of the  
received setting information does not match format of  
15 the network terminal apparatus, the received setting  
information into format-adjusted setting information;

wherein

the means for setting the received setting  
information sets the format-adjusted setting  
20 information to the network terminal apparatus; and

the means for storing setting information  
stores the format-adjusted setting information  
therein.

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12. The network terminal apparatus as  
claimed in claim 11,

wherein

the means for transforming the received  
5 setting information transforms the received setting  
information based on stylesheet that defines an  
attribute of each element of the setting information.

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13. A method of sharing setting  
information between a network terminal apparatus and  
another network terminal apparatus connected via a  
15 network, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request for acquiring  
setting information to the other network terminal  
apparatus;

receiving the setting information from the  
20 other requested network terminal apparatus;

setting the received setting information to  
the network terminal apparatus;

storing the received setting information in  
the network terminal apparatus;

25 receiving a request for acquiring setting

information from another network terminal apparatus;  
and

transmitting the setting information to the  
other requesting network terminal apparatus.

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14. A network system, comprising:  
10 a first network terminal apparatus; and  
a second network terminal apparatus  
connected to the first network terminal apparatus via  
a network, the second network terminal apparatus  
storing setting information;

15 wherein

the first network terminal apparatus  
transmits an acquisition request to the second  
network terminal apparatus, receives the setting  
information from the second network terminal  
20 apparatus, sets the setting information to the first  
network terminal apparatus, and stores the setting  
information in the first network terminal apparatus;  
and

the second network terminal apparatus  
25 transmits the setting information stored therein to



the first network terminal apparatus in response to receipt of the acquisition request from the first network terminal apparatus.